

Message Text

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ACTION A-01

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SUBJ: VP VISIT - BACKGROUND ON HHH CENTER

REF.: TEL AVIV 7783; KULICK/HITCHCOCK JUNE 20 TELCON

1. CENTER IS PART OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES FACULTY AT BEN GURION UNIVERSITY OF NEGEV (BEERSHEVA). IT DESIGNED TO BE PUBLIC SERVICE-ORIENTED INSTITUTION WHICH WILL BRING TO REGION'S POPULATION AND INSTITUTIONS BENEFITS OF INFORMATION AND SKILLS FOUND IN SOCIAL SCIENCES BRANCH OF FACULTY. IN A REGION WHICH CONSTITUTES A HUMAN LABORATORY OF DIVERSE SOCIO-CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS AND ASPIRATIONS FOR RAPID DEVELOPMENT, THERE IS ALSO NEED AND OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPORTANT RESEARCH IN MANY AREAS OF SOCIAL SCIENCES.

2. UNIQUE ASPECT OF CENTER WILL BE TO ESTABLISH FIELD STAFFS FOR ADDRESSING PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION FOR DISADVANTAGED, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL PLANNING, REMEDYING OR CONTENDING WITH VARIETY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS. CENTER WILL DEAL PRIMARILY WITH THOSE PROBLEMS IN ISRAEL CAUSED BY DIFFERENCES IN BACKGROUND, EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND NATIONAL ORIENTATION AS THE RESULT OF DIVERSE LANDS OF ORIGIN OF SO MANY ISRAELIS. CENTER WILL LEAD PROGRAMS IN EDUCATION SPECIAL-
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IZING IN PROBLEMS RELATING TO ENVIRONMENT, BOTH HUMAN AND PHYSICAL, AND PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AT BOTH MIDDLE MANAGEMENT AND HIGHER MANAGEMENT LEVELS REGARDLESS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND IN ISRAEL. INDEED, ONE OF MAJOR REASONS FOR NAMING THE CENTER AFTER HUBERT HUMPHREY WAS UNIVERSITY'S BELIEF THAT IN HIS PERSONAL AND PUBLIC LIFE HUMPHREY DEVOTED HIS ENERGIES AND INFLUENCE TO MEETING MANY SIMILAR ISSUES.

3. PERCEPTION THAT HUMPHREY WOULD BE A SUITABLE NAME FOR CENTER CAME FROM AMERICAN ASSOCIATES OF BEN GURION UNIVERSITY. CENTER HAS IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS COLLECTED MORE THAN ONE MILLION DOLLARS, WHICH IS ONLY A BEGINNING. CHAIR FOR SOCIAL INTEGRATION AT THE UNIVERSITY ENDOWED BY THE CHILEWICH FAMILY OF NEW YORK, WILL BE PLACED IN THE HUBERT H HUMPHREY CENTER. SUPPORT ALSO COMES FROM MR NISSIM GAON, CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF BEN GURION UNIVERSITY, AN INTIMATE OF PM BEGIN AND A LEADER OF THE SEPHARDIC JEWISH COMMUNITY (HE A BANKER FROM GENEVA). IN AMERICA, SUPPORT HAS LARGELY COME FROM LEONARD SHANE OF NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA, WHO IS ALSO A BANKER. SHANE HAS LONG BEEN INVOLVED IN DEMOCRATIC POLITICS, HAS CONNECTIONS WITH THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT FROM WHICH SUPPORT FOR THE CENTER IS EXPECTED, WORKED FOR AND WITH HUMPHREY SINCE 1948, AND IS A PROMINENT LEADER OF CALIROFNRIA JEWISH COMMUNITY.

4. EXPECTED THERE WILL BE DINNER IN LA FOR CENTER IN JAN AND THAT SENATOR MURIEL HUMPHREY WILL ATTEND. THERE IS ALSO CHANCE FOR SIMILAR DINNER IN NEW ENGLAND WITH APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATION FROM JEWISH LEADERS AND DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

5. IN A CABLE FROM ISRAEL TO AMERICAN ASSOCIATES OF BEN GURION UNIVERSITY, PM MENAHEM BEGIN SAID: "AN ENTERPRISE SO NOBLE AS THIS ENDOWS THE UNIVERSITY WITH HONOUR AND LINKS FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALL TIME WITH THIS GREAT UNIVERSITY THE NAME OF A GREAT HUMANITARIAN, A FEARLESS FIGHTER FOR LIBERTY, AND A BELOVED AND CHERISHED FRIEND OF ISRAEL."

6. FORMER UN AMB TEKOAH, PRESIDENT OF BEN GURION U, DESCRIBED CENTER AS BEING OF "IMMEASURABLE IMPORTANCE TO THE WELFARE AND FUTURE OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL."

7. A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM IN ISRAEL IS THE "SOCIAL GAP" WHICH HAS BEEN CREATED BY THE DIVERSITY OF ORIGIN OF SO MANY WHO HAVE IMMIGRATED TO ISRAEL, AND BEN GURION U HAS ASSUMED THE MISSION OF BRIDGING THIS GAP. LEADING THIS EFFORT WILL BE THE H H H CENTER OF SOCIAL ECOLOGY. FIRST PROGRAMS ARE ANTICIPATED FOR THE 1978/79 ACADEMIC YEAR.

8. NATIONAL CHAIRMAN FOR THE CENTER IS MR LEONARD SHANE, OF NEWPORT BEACH, CALIF. BELOW IS FULL TEXT OF PM BEGIN'S TELEGRAM TO SHANE, PRESIDENT OF THE WESTERN REGION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE H H H CENTER OF SOCIAL ECOLOGY: "IT GAVE ME DEEP SATISFACTION TO LEARN THAT THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATES OF THE BEN GURION U OF THE NEGEV, WESTERN REGION, HAVE DECIDED TO HONOR THE MEMORY

OF THE LATE SENATOR HUMPHREY BY ESTABLISHING IN HIS NAME A
CENTER OF SOCIAL ECOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY. AN ENTERPRISE SO
NOBLE AS THIS ENDOWS THE UNIVERSITY WITH HONOR AND LINKS FOR
ALL TIME WITH YOUR GREAT UNIVERSITY THE NAME OF A GREAT
HUMANITARIAN, A FEARLESS FIGHTER FOR LIBERTY AND A BELOVED
AND CHERISHED FRIEND OF ISRAEL. I EXTEND MY GREETINGS TO ALL
THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS IMAGINATIVE AND IMPORTANT PRO-
JECT." MENAHEM BEGIN, PRIME MINISTER"

8. SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOLLOW SOONEST IN SEPTTEL. LEWIS

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